

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 84

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dave Loos, both the longest-serving head basketball coach and the longest-serving athletic-director in the history of Austin Peay State University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, it is also fitting that this General Assembly should salute those athletic directors who work diligently to strengthen their sports departments, provide athletic leadership, and carry on the day-to-day duties of planning, budgeting, and developing their department, as well as directing all intercollegiate athletic programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, Dave Loos is one such estimable community leader who successfully serves with acumen and probity as both the Head Men's Basketball Coach and the Athletic Director of Austin Peay State University; and

WHEREAS, he holds the distinction of having the longest-serving record in both positions, seventeen seasons as head coach and nine years as athletic director; his long-standing tenure is testament to Mr. Loos' meritorious service to the school and the respect he has earned both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, a native of St. Louis and an avid fan of the Cardinals, Coach Loos was an outstanding baseball player in his youth; for his efforts he was inducted into the St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997; and

WHEREAS, he continued to display his stellar athletic skills at then-Memphis State University, where he was a member of the baseball and basketball teams; he was an all-conference shortstop, and he has since been inducted into the University of Memphis Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a legendary leader, Coach Loos began his head-coaching career at his prep alma mater, Mehlville High School in St. Louis, where he coached for eight years; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving that school, he accepted a position with Christian Brothers College in Memphis in 1982; after an initial 16-14 season, the team recorded three straight 20-victory campaigns under Coach Loos' tutelage; and

WHEREAS, his skill and acumen were obvious to most observers in the realm of college athletics, and he was soon asked to serve Larry Finch at his collegiate alma mater; he helped to lead Memphis State to an 85-43 record in four years, including two berths in the NCAA tournament; and

WHEREAS, Coach Loos became Austin Peay State University's 11th head men's basketball coach in 1990, and he has since proven to be a perfect fit for the program, providing exciting basketball for Governors' fans while directing a program that has earned great respect throughout the realm of college athletics; and

WHEREAS, in his seventeen years with Austin Peay, he has led the Governors to a record of 260-230; he became the APSU all-time wins leader on January 13, 2007, against Southeast Missouri; and

WHEREAS, in his years as the Governors' coach, Dave Loos has elevated Austin Peay's program to the pinnacle of Ohio Valley Conference prominence, and he has done it with a dignity and class that reflect the reputation he built as an athlete and as a prep/college coach; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Loos' guidance, the Governors have advanced to at least the OVC tourney semifinals in nine of the last twelve years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Loos, who is dean of the Ohio Valley Conference of basketball coaches, is only the second APSU coach to lead the Governors to an OVC regular-season co-championship and NCAA Division I tournament berth; and

WHEREAS, he is known throughout the basketball community of Tennessee and this nation as one of the sport's greatest teachers and innovators, and he has received numerous awards and honors for his expertise; and

WHEREAS, Coach Loos is the first coach in school history to earn four OVC Coach of the Year honors, the most recent in 2003-2004 with an unprecedented 16-0 league campaign; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Coach Loos has earned recognition from the Tennessee State Sportswriters Association, having been named both the 1995-1996 and the 2002-2003 Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, raw statistics, however impressive they may be, cannot come close to measuring his value as a coach; he is an exceptional motivator and teaches the sport as few men can; and

WHEREAS, for his service to Austin Peay, he was named the school's Athletic Director in 1997, in which position he strives to constantly build on the success of all of the athletic programs under his guidance; and

WHEREAS, Coach Loos has carried out his duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, and with an inspirational flair unique only to him; he has earned the respect and admiration of his students and peers at Austin Peay State University and throughout this State; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is committed to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community values and is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Phyllis; their four children, David, who broadcasts Governors and Lady Governors sports, Todd, who is in the music business, Brad, a former Governor and currently an assistant basketball coach at Central Missouri, and Nicole, a former member of the university's dance team and currently in sports marketing at the College of Charleston; and two grandchildren, William Daniel and Olivia Joy; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Dave Loos has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his students to reach their fullest potential; he exemplifies the unquestioned character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Coach Dave Loos of the Austin Peay State University Governors for his honorable and astute service to the youth of this State as a coach and athletic director and join with his family, friends, students, and fans in congratulating him on being the longest-serving athletic director and longest-serving coach in the University's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish him much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.